

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections in light of the preceding amendments and accompanying remarks are respectfully requested.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-38 and 40-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 32, and 40-44 have been amended to address the issues raised by the Examiner. Although Applicants' Representatives do not agree with the Examiner, these amendments have been made to expedite prosecution and clarify the invention. Claim 14 has been amended to recite two additional structures, which are fully supported by the specification at page 12, line 29. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

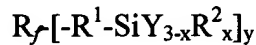
The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-38 and 40-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Ochiai et al. (EP 0749021 A2). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ochiai et al. relate to a light-transmitting antireflection filter (page 2, line 1). The antireflection filter contains a film or sheet-form transparent substrate, an antireflection coating on at least one surface of the substrate that contains an inorganic compound, and a stain proofing layer on the antireflection coating that contains a silane compound having a number average molecular weight of 5×10^2 to 1×10^5 represented by formula (I) (page 2, lines 27-49).

In contrast to Ochiai et al., Applicants' claims 1-12, 15-28, 43, and 44 are all directed to an antireflective article or method of applying an antisoiling coating to a substrate having an antireflective surface that includes a fluorinated siloxane prepared from a fluorinated silane of the following formula:

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(I)

wherein: R_f is a monovalent or divalent polyfluoropolyether group; R^1 is a substituted divalent alkylene group, arylene group, or combinations thereof, wherein at least one substituent in R^1 is selected from the group consisting of heteroatoms and functional groups, and further wherein at least one substituent is optionally a halogen; R^2 is a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group; Y is a halogen, a C_1 - C_4 alkoxy group, or a C_1 - C_4 acyloxy group; x is 0 or 1; and y is 1 or 2.

Furthermore, in contrast to Ochiai et al., Applicants' claims 13, 14, and 40 are directed to an antisoiling coating composition or an antireflective article prepared by applying a coating composition containing at least one fluorinated silane and an alkyl perfluoroalkyl ether. U.S. Pat. No. 5,081,192 (Tatemoto), which is referred to in Ochiai et al., does not disclose alkylperfluoroalkyl ethers as suggested by the Examiner. Rather at col. 3, line 42, and in Example 1 of Tatemoto, perfluorovinyl ethers are disclosed.

Also, in contrast to Ochiai et al., Applicants' claims 29 and 31-38 are directed to an antireflective article including a transparent substrate having a first surface and a second surface, an antireflective coating on at least a portion of the first surface, and an antisoiling coating on the antireflective coating having siloxane groups and polyfluoropolyether segments covalently bonded to silicon via organic linking groups, wherein the polyfluoropolyether segments have a molecular weight of at least about 1000 and the organic linking groups include nitrogen atoms and optionally heteroatoms other than nitrogen, functional groups, and halogens.

Further, in contrast to Ochiai et al., claims 41 and 42 are directed to an antireflective article with an antisoiling coating and a method of applying an antisoiling coating that is prepared from a coating composition that includes at least one fluorinated silane wherein R_f is a divalent polyfluoro-polyether group.

Thus, Ochiai et al. do not teach or suggest Applicants' invention. To anticipate a claim for a patent, a cited document must contain all the elements of that claim. As Ochiai et al. do not

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Amendment and Response

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For: ANTISOILING COATINGS FOR ANTIREFLECTIVE SURFACES AND METHODS OF PREPARATION

disclose an antireflective article, an antisoiling coating, or a method of applying an antisoiling coating to a substrate as recited in Applicants' claims, the document cannot anticipate Applicants' invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns with respect to the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' Representative, Ann Mueting, at (612) 305-1217.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 14 day of July, 2000.


Ann M. Mueting

July 14, 2000
Date

AMM/rgg

Respectfully submitted,

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